

CHURCH OF GOD
Evangel

SALVATION IN
THE SEA

Page 3

April 29, 1957

"Ye Must Be
Born Again"

Page 7



Southeastern Kentucky's Greatest Flood Disaster

Page 8



Earth's Common Things

*Seek not for beauty. Lo! it glows
In dew-wet grasses all about thy feet;
In birds, in sunshine, childish faces sweet,
In stars and mountain summits topped with snows.*

*Go not abroad for happiness, for see,
It is a flower that blooms at thy door.
Bring love and justice home, and then no more
Thou'lt wonder in what dwelling joy may be.*

*Dream not of noble service elsewhere wrought;
The simple duty that awaits thy hand
Is God's voice uttering a divine command,
Life's common deeds build all that saints have thought.*

*In wonder-working, or some bush aflame
Men look for God and fancy Him concealed;
But in earth's common things He stands revealed
While grass and flowers and stars spell out His name.*

—Minot F. Savage

Vol. 48, No. 9

April 29, 1957

IN THIS ISSUE

Salvation in the Sea	3
A Warning to the Elect	Earl P. Paulk, Jr. 4
Ye Must Be Born Again	Ralph E. Northrup 7
Great Flood Disaster	8
Healing	12
Reports	14

CHURCH OF GOD Evangel

America's Oldest Pentecostal Publication

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1. In the verbal inspiration of the Bible. 2. In one God eternally existing in three persons; namely, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. 3. That Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of the Father, conceived of the Holy Ghost, and born of the Virgin Mary. That Jesus was crucified, buried, and raised from the dead; that He ascended to heaven and is today at the right hand of the Father as the Intercessor. 4. That all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, and that repentance is commanded of God for all and necessary for forgiveness of sins. 5. That justification, regeneration, and the new birth are wrought by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ. 6. In sanctification subsequent to the new birth, through faith in the blood of Christ; through the Word, and by the Holy Ghost. 7. Holiness to be God's standard of living for His people. 8. In the baptism of the Holy Ghost subsequent to a clean heart. 9. In speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance, and that it is the initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost. 10. In water baptism by immersion, and all who repent should be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. 11. Divine healing is provided for all in the atonement. 12. In the Lord's Supper and washing of the saints' feet. 13. In the premillennial second coming of Jesus. First, to resurrect the righteous dead and to catch away the living saints to Him in the air. Second, to reign on the earth a thousand years. 14. In the bodily resurrection; eternal life for the righteous and eternal punishment for the wicked.

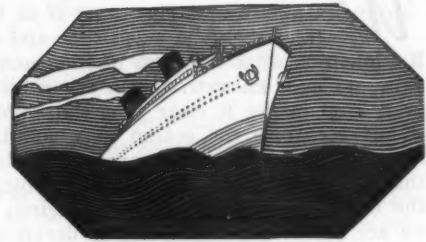
Published Weekly by
The Church of God Publishing House
E. C. Thomas, Business Manager

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Single Subscription, per year	\$2.00
Single Copy	.05

Entered as second-class matter under act of March 3, 1879, at Cleveland, Tennessee. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, act of October 3, 1917. Authorized August 23, 1918.

Salvation in the Sea



WHAM! BANG! CRASH! Pandemonium prevailed. A torpedo of a hit-and-run enemy submarine had found its target on the broadside of our ship. I hardly knew what had happened, when suddenly I found myself along with many others, frantically swimming to keep my head above the waves of the distressed sea and the vortex of our sinking ship. Like all who near the brink of eternity, I began to call on God. But would He hear me now? The months that I had spent in the service were so filled with the romance of adventure that no plans were made that included God. It seemed that any minute now my name would be another on the long list of casualties that had made their graves in the deep. I was able to get hold of debris that helped to keep me afloat as I continued to call on God.

Many things that used to seem important to me seemed important no longer. Things of real value in life seemed to flash through my consciousness like a swift-moving picture. There were things like home, mother, dad, the family altar, Sunday School, the pastor's sermon; then there was that horrifying guilt of sin, sins committed, yes, but far worse, the sin of the rejecting of Christ as my Saviour when I had been aware of His convicting presence. Would He hear me now?

My natural vision was blurred with salt, tears, and fears, but about this time in the series of pictures that rolled before my memory, I saw, as clear as the day it happened, my Bible teacher, Brother David Lemons, who taught me at the summer Bible school at Wimauma, Florida. He was saying again, just as he had said it before. "God is more desirous of saving man, than man is of being saved." My, I thought, if God wants to save me as much as I want to be saved, it seems that there should be a pretty good chance of getting together now. Then I saw my teacher again as he said, "Now I am going to give you a formula of salvation and it all centers in one word which is 'confess.'"

He raised his left hand and with the right hand pointed to each of the fingers of his left hand and gave the following instructions: "First, in order to be saved, we must confess that Christ is the only hope of salvation. Acts 4:12, 'For there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.' Next," he said as he pointed to the second finger, "we must confess our sins. 1 John 1:9, 'If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins'; Proverbs 28:13, 'He that covereth his sins

shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.'"

Pointing to the third finger, he said, "It is not enough to confess Him as the only means of salvation, but you must confess Him as your Saviour. Romans 10:9, 10, 'If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.'"

For the fourth confession he pointed out, "It is imperative that we confess Him before men. Luke 12:8, 'Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God.'"

By this time my faith was taking hold and I thought, I am ready to confess Him before men but there is nobody here to whom I can confess Him, so I just promised God that I would confess His Son at my first opportunity.

Pointing to the last finger, my teacher quoted Romans 14:11, "As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess."

"O God," I was praying, "I don't want to be among those who wait too late to confess to Christ."

This something within me was bigger than the mountainous billows of the sea about me; bigger than the ship that was going down before my eyes; bigger than the fear of death that had but a few fleeting moments ago harassed my thoughts. This that I felt was akin to God indeed. It was Christ Jesus being formed in me.

I do not know what happened after this. I found myself returning to consciousness between the white sheets of a hospital bed. One of the first things I remembered was that I had promised to confess Christ before men. This promise of confession I fulfilled by word of mouth and by the testimony of water baptism. As I did so the warmth of God's love overwhelmed me as the waves of the sea that had before rolled about me. I am continuing my testimony by witnessing to those with whom I am associated, and by seeing that my ship has an ample supply of Church of God *Evangelists* and *Lighted Pathways*. It is my desire that everybody shall be exposed to this truth that God is more desirous of saving man than man is of being saved. Oh, that men would praise the Lord for His goodness and for His wonderful works to the children of men.

WHEN IS JESUS coming again? You say, what a foolish question! Is it? If so, then why did Jesus spend so much time and effort telling His followers what the signs of His coming would be? True, no man knoweth the day nor the hour. However, Paul makes it clear that the *children of light* should recognize the season in which the Lord will return. "But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore, let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober," 1 Thessalonians 5:4-8.

In the circles of Pentecost, we have spent much time reminding ourselves of the physical signs of the return of Jesus. Many preachers and writers have sent forth the message, which is part of the truth, that in the last days there shall be wars and rumors of wars. Congregations have been told of the horrible famines that shall cover portions of the earth. An accurate account has been kept of the earthquakes, because they, too, are signs of the day of the Lord.

Let us not discount these foregoing signs. However, may it be stamped upon our minds that these are only the physical signs. Those that will affect the Church are the *spiritual signs* of the coming of Jesus. The New Testament writers were especially clear concerning many signs that would arise *among the so-called people of God*. Let us, therefore, spend some time reviewing some of these signs that will be of a religious nature, many of which will come forth out of the one-time true followers of Christ.

In our discussion of spiritual signs of the coming of Jesus, may we make three general divisions: self-exaltation of the prophet, signs and wonders, and deception of the very elect.

Let us note first the spiritual sign of **THE SELF-EXALTATION OF THE PROPHET OR PREACHER**. This is the evil spirit that caused the downfall of the heavenly being, Lucifer, now more commonly known as Satan or the devil. It was he who boasted, "I will exalt my throne above the stars of God" (Isaiah 14:13). Because of his self-exaltation, Lucifer was cast down from heaven. It was this same spirit that caused the fall of Adam and Eve. The serpent said to the woman, "Ye shall not surely die: for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil," Genesis 3:4, 5.

This desire for personal exaltation is one of the marks of the *false preacher* of our day. They would have the public to look upon them as a *christ*. They will not come from outside the circles of the church, but shall arise from within the church. If this were not true, they could not hope to gain sincere followers. As the Scripture states at the beginning of this article, "For false Christs and false prophets shall rise," and the very elect are to be endangered. If these self-proclaimed human gods do not arise from among the people of God, there would be no hope of their causing the downfall of God's chosen.

Paul describes them as "lovers of self" (2 Timothy 3:1, 2). Their chief aim is to heap upon themselves glory and esteem. They become greedy for money and, therefore, make merchandise of the gospel (2 Peter 2:3). They despise government because it challenges their desire to take advantage of the people of God. How different this is from the good shepherd, whose desire is to protect his sheep. The hireling, on the other hand, is concerned only for that which he will gain.

What does God say about this self-exaltation of the preacher? "Whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased" (Luke 14:11). The Apostle Paul makes very clear in what one should glory. "But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth" (2 Corinthians 10:17, 18). Of himself Paul said, "Of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities" (2 Corinthians 12:5). He, of the followers of Jesus, could have glorified in the flesh, but he clearly saw it would have been to bring attention to himself instead of to Christ.

The attitude of the true prophet of God will be to exalt Christ, to show forth His marvelous life, death and resurrection, and at the same time, to keep constantly in the minds of the hearers that he personally is a mere man and not to receive glory.

The second spiritual sign is **SIGNS AND WONDERS**.



Let us make clear the Pentecostal belief at this point. The Pentecostal believes that "signs shall follow them that believe" (Mark 16:17). Please remember, however, that the signs here referred to are to confirm God's Word, not to exalt the personality through which the sign is manifested. Mark states that false prophets, or preachers, shall attempt to seduce the elect with signs and wonders. Surely, there are to be great signs worked by those that have been deceived. May it be here added that some of these false preachers are sincere; so are the women in Africa who throw their babies into the waters to be eaten by the crocodiles to please their gods. *Sincerity is no determining point in right and wrong.*

These false preachers who produce signs and wonders and deceive the people to receive personal praise, are forerunners of the antichrist. The hearts of the people in the religious world must be prepared for the advent of the antichrist. Therefore, the false prophets and preachers are being used as tools of the enemy of God. Note the warning of Paul, "Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with *all power and signs and lying wonders*" (2 Thessalonians 2:9). If a Christian is shaken today with the mild display of signs and wonders, then he will surely fall prey to the antichrist. He shall have great power and as John states, "And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles" (Revelation 13:14). He will have power to control life and death

A Warning to the Elect

By Earl P. Paulk, Jr.

"For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and SHALL SHEW SIGNS AND WONDERS, to seduce, if it were possible, even THE ELECT," Mark 13:22.

and do some of the most glaring wonders ever performed.

Here is a list of things that should be kept in mind regarding signs and wonders:

- (a) *Signs should be a confirmation of God, and are not to be sought or advertised to attract attention.*

Jesus was careful that those who followed Him not do so because of the miracles that He performed. He often told those healed to go and *tell no man*. His chief concern was to glorify the Father in heaven.

- (b) *Signs and wonders are not the final proof of who is right or wrong.* The magicians of Egypt were able to do great miracles, but it did not make them right. The antichrist and his forerunners will do great signs and wonders, but this does not make them right. Jesus said you can detect His followers by one mark, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, IF YE HAVE LOVE ONE TO ANOTHER" (John 13:35). Note, some who claim the greatest miracles are those who have divided God's children, not brought them together in love.

- (c) *Signs and symbols are not to be exalted in the minds of the people.* Why should a cross appear in the forehead of a person, when the cross is a sign of the suffering of Jesus? We now have Jesus; why be content with the appearing of a sign? Why desire to have oil in the hands, when it is a sign of the Holy Ghost and His anointing, and we can have the experience of the baptism? Remember, *these signs are only glorifying the preacher* and making more disciples and followers of him and not of Jesus.

- (d) *Jesus said, "Blessed are they that have NOT SEEN, and yet have believed"* (John 20:29). The spirit in the religious world today is likened unto Thomas, who said, "Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, *I will not believe*" (John 20:25). Let the redeemed remember that the just shall live by faith and not by sight.

- (e) *Signs that are to follow believers are given in the Scripture:* Jesus said, "These signs shall follow them that believe" (Mark 16:17). Signs and wonders that are not promised to followers are likely to be misleading. For example, there are those who claim the scars are appearing in their hands. This is a mark reserved only for Jesus, the Crucified. The next step of those that claim these marks, will be that *I am the incarnation of Christ*. Note: "For many shall come in my name, saying, *I am Christ*; and shall deceive many" (Matthew 24:5).

THE THIRD SPIRITUAL SIGN of the second coming of Jesus is that *the elect will be liable to deception*. Satan knows if he can deceive some of

the more spiritual persons, that many others will be deceived as a result. If one who has never been a true believer should arise and make great claims, no one would give him heed. However, when some who have, at one time, faithfully followed Jesus, are misled, they will have a great influence in misleading others. For the most part, they will be sincere, but they will have failed to adhere to the Word of God. They will believe a lie and be damned, deceiving and being deceived.

Perhaps it would be good for us to turn our attention to ways and means of knowing who are the false preachers of our day, or of any generation. Surely, there are some outstanding marks by which these intruders may be recognized. Here is a list of things to note in determining the false prophet.

(a) *Do they preach and practice the whole Bible?* Many preachers preach a law of liberty and at the same time place their followers in bondage to themselves (note 2 Peter 2:19). Perhaps the false preachers denounce government in the church. If they do so, they are not in complete accord with the Scriptures (note 1 Corinthians 12:28; 2 Peter 2:10). A preacher who is afraid of government is one who is self-willed. The Word of God commands that we be in subjection to those who are over us in the Lord. Now, if a prophet has no one over him in the Lord, or is independent, then how can he be a preacher of the whole gospel? The Bible tells us that we are all members one of the other; therefore, in the body of Christ there is no such thing as an independent. We are dependent on Christ, the Holy Ghost and one another.

(b) *Do they show genuine love and compassion?* Again may we be reminded that "by this shall all men know that ye are my disciples" (John 13:35). The true prophet is one who places the needs of others above his own. He is willing even to risk his life for the sake of the sheep. How different this is from the false preacher who is constantly crying out concerning his own personal needs. Sure, the congregation is told that it is to carry the gospel, but who has the power to check on where the money is spent? Here again is shown the need of government.

(c) *Do they glory in Christ and their own personal weakness?* Paul, the great apostle, declared he would glory in naught save the cross. Again, he states his personal weakness before his hearers (2 Corinthians 12:5; 1 Corinthians 2:3). How different this is from the spirit of those who make such great personal claims. God forbid that the preacher should glory in his personal abilities. To do so is to call the attention of the followers away from God to self.

(d) *Do they make merchandise of the gospel?* (note 2 Peter 2:3.) Many have gained personal wealth from the benefits of the gospel of Jesus who became poor for our sakes. The Scriptures clearly tell us that it will be hard for a rich man to be saved. Why should one desire to make it difficult for himself to inherit eternal life? Can you feature Jesus being rich while the hungry around Him were starving to death? Then why should a prophet of God seek for riches? Yet, some in these days have gained great wealth and

property, and only a small part is used for the help of mankind. God condemns the misuse of money. Here again, when proper government controls a fellowship, there is no danger of these evils. Property is then held by the people of the church, and the money is used for the furtherance of the true gospel. A record is given the people as to the expenditures.

(e) *Do they draw away disciples after themselves?* "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them," Acts 20:29, 30. Is this not a clear description of the false preacher who is constantly dividing the sheep and causing great harm? It is the will of God that all should come into the unity of the faith. But false prophets are interested in making followers for themselves. They will speak evil of good men in order to gain deceived disciples.

These things lead us to realize that we are in a spiritual battle. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places," Ephesians 6:12. The battle has now reached its closing phase, and only those who have put on the whole armor of God are going to be able to stand against the powers of darkness. These battles in the spiritual world are signs of the soon coming of our Lord. How sad it will be for some who have once tasted of the good things of God to be deceived in these last days.

You ask, what should I do knowing that we are living in the last days? The Apostle Peter gives the answer, "Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless," 2 Peter 3:14. Christians should be careful to put God first. To witness to the lost is the foremost commission of Jesus to His disciples. The chief interest of the true follower of Jesus will then be for others.

In light of the soon coming of Jesus the sinner should hasten to repent of his sin and have faith in Jesus as Saviour and Lord. The writer of Hebrews reminds us, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of a living God," Hebrews 10:31. Sinners should cry out for forgiveness before it is too late. The night will soon be upon the world. The judgment of God will be poured out upon sin and unrighteousness. God stands ready now to forgive the confessing sinner. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness," 1 John 1:9.

God's timeclock is nearing the midnight hour. Soon the battle of life will be past. Many are unsaved and have no hope but to spend eternity in hell. Thousands of Christians are being deceived and led into a form of godliness. Still many other thousands of Christians have become lukewarm in their experience with God. Many others are dying that have never heard the name of Jesus. Is this not a sufficient warning to the elect of God?

"YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN"

By Ralph E. Northrup



"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man BE BORN AGAIN, he cannot see the kingdom of God. . . . Marvel not that I said unto thee, YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN," John 3:3, 7.



THE BIBLE DEFINITELY asserts that man was created by a separate, definite act of God. ("And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.") Therefore, man was created, not evolved, as some teach and believe. "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them," Genesis 1:26a, 27.

Now this was all fine, but man sinned, rebelled against God and fell, and the image of God was destroyed (*image of righteousness, holiness, and spirituality*). Adam and Eve disobeyed God and partook of the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden, and for their iniquity were cast out. Instead of a spiritual being, consisting of a body, a soul and a spirit, man broke with God and fell to the level of the animal realm; thus he is called in the Scripture "the natural man."

The natural man, until regenerated by the Spirit of the Living God (born again), is spiritually dead, alienated from the life of God and devoid of spiritual knowledge. It is impossible for him to see and understand spiritual truth, which is foolishness to him. "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned," 1 Corinthians 2:14.

If man is not willing to accept God's Word as to where he came from, it stands to reason that he will be unwilling to accept God's Word as to where he is going. Death does not end it all, but man is destined for a never-ending eternity, because he was created in the image of an eternal, everliving Almighty God.

Man seeks in himself to find a way to be reconciled to God and to soothe his own conscience by personal efforts, by self-improvement. He strives through culture, education, religious attendance, rituals and ordinances in some form or other, by self-denial, by asceticism, by reformation, by legislation; but it serves to no avail. He is like a man trying to pull himself out of the pit by his own bootstraps; he only sinks lower and lower into the mire of sin and iniquity. "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools," Romans 1:22.

This renewal of spiritual life of which sin robbed mankind must be by a second, a new creation. Just as God breathed into the nostrils of Adam, the new life, the new creation, the restoration of God's image can come only by the breath, the Spirit of God, entering a lost sinner and putting him in touch with God. Note here: *Genesis 2:7; John 3:5; 2 Corinthians 5:17.*

"*Ye must be born again.*" Yes, the new man, the born-again believer, is not an improved old man, as God does not patch up and repair the fallen man, but makes a new, a second creation. Sin had to be taken care of, so God found a way, a way that man could not possibly find to atone for his sin. This He did in the Person of His Son, Jesus Christ, who came in the image of God, and as the second Adam, and finished the work on the Cross, for "without shedding of blood is no remission" (Hebrews 9:22). "While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us," Romans 5:8. "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous," Romans 5:19.

Through Christ, the Son of God, we are reconciled to God, and in Him are made a new creation, for He is the last Adam; "And so it is written, The first Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit," 1 Corinthians 15:45. The Lord Jesus Christ, therefore, restored the lost image of God by perfectly meeting all demands of God's righteousness and justice. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God," John 1:12, 13. By trusting Him, by receiving Him, by believing that He died and rose again for you, and for me, for all, "whosoever will, may come."

Accepting Him is a *must*, if you desire to make heaven; only Christ Jesus is the way to eternal life; to reject Him and His Word is eternal death. "*Ye must be born again.*"

"*Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life,*" John 5:24.



This is Main Street in Hazard, looking west. The building on the right is the Hazard Post Office building.



Yes, this is a real pig. It was carried by the swift waters down Main Street and swept through the broken glass front of the Home Office Supply. When the photographer reached the scene it had come to rest very complacently on the top of the company's filing cabinets.

Southeastern K

Great F Disas

The great, destructive flood that deluged Hazard and much of southeastern Kentucky January 29 was the area's greatest disaster in recorded history. It followed a torrential downpour of rain the night before, and by some was described as a flash flood. The water came up so rapidly that the people could hardly save their household and personal effects for trying to escape with their own lives. Luckily it came during the day or there would have been many more lives lost. At present we have an account of only five persons that were drowned during the flood. Words cannot describe the plight and misfortune that hundreds of families suffered in this flood. Many of these families lost everything they had and escaped only with the clothes they wore on their backs. The people were stunned and at a loss what step they should take next. Some four hundred families reported to the Red Cross as being homeless as a result of the flood.

The City of Hazard Was Hard Hit

The city of Hazard was almost destroyed. The entire Main Street section was put out of commission. The electric, gas, and water companies were all unable to function for nearly a week, and the gas

ern Kentucky's

t Flood saster

company is still unable to supply the people with heat. In a matter of hours we found ourselves completely cut off from the outside world with no means of communication. One of the first things to go in the flood was the city's radio station. One man in this area had a "ham" radio and that saved the day. Never was the amateur's transmitter more valuable.

To get our power plant going again large forty-ton transformers had to be brought from Roanoke, Virginia; here again our lone transmitter helped the situation. By the help of other sets that picked up the distress call of our man, the news was carried outside and the transformers were soon on their way. One man in Lexington, Kentucky, told me he stayed by his set thirty-six hours guiding the vehicles over the bridges that were able to support the heavy transformers.

The churches and hospitals that were not affected by the flood joined to provide beds and meals for the homeless victims. Hazard's business establishments suffered millions of dollars in losses. Some of the people's homes washed away completely; others were removed from their foundations; and still



This is Main Street in Hazard, looking east. The whole extent of this prosperous business section was flooded and for several days Hazard looked like a ghost town.



After the water receded and the clean-up job began, there were many such scenes as the one shown here.



The water continued to rise until it covered the trailer here beside the Hazard church building.

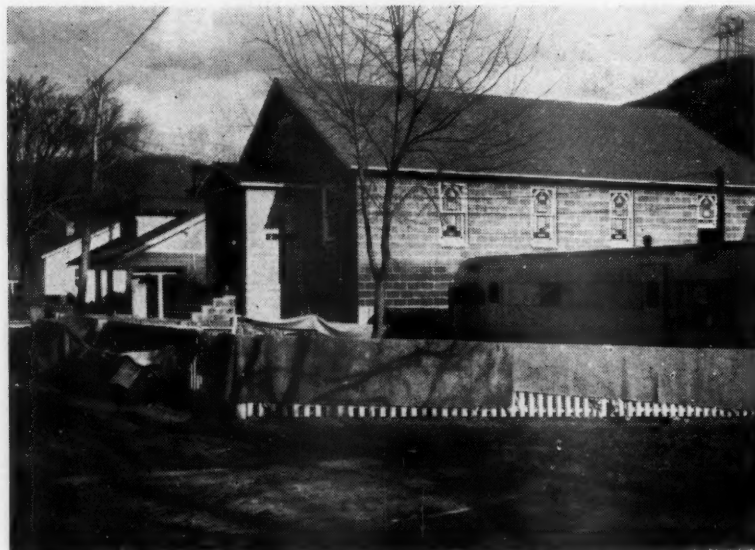
others were so damaged that it will take many thousands of dollars to repair them.

GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY - APPRECIATED

As soon as the news that Hazard had been wiped out reached the outside world, the U.S. Government

went to work. Helicopters from Fort Knox brought in food and medicine. The Army and Red Cross agencies were soon on the spot with their assistance. One could not but appreciate America and its many useful and helpful auxiliaries. I have seen hundreds of thousands made destitute overnight, and the refugees filled every valley and hilltop, but I never saw help reach the distressed sooner than in this disaster.

In Cyprus I saw thirty-two thousand persons made homeless in one hour as a result of an earthquake, and I joined in to help them, but this is the first time I have been a real victim myself. I have often read of the miraculous rescue work of the helicopter, and when we saw it twirling overhead in our vicinity, bringing in the supplies that could not reach us otherwise, we could realize how others must have rejoiced when it reached them on its friendly mission.



This is the Hazard Church. The water covered the nearby trailer and came just below our church windows. In front hanging on the fence can be seen some of the church carpets that were new and

which we had laid only the week before the flood. Inside the church the water was up to the back of the church pews, and in the parsonage it came up almost to the door knobs.



This scene was taken as the water was still rising. It reached its crest just under the windows in the second floor of this house.

COURAGEOUS SPIRIT

The morning after the flood this valley looked as pale and desolate as death. The expression on the people's faces was easily read, all looked as if they wanted to run away. Hazard took courage, and is determined to emerge a bigger and better city. Most of the businesses have cleared away the aftermath and are now opened again for business. Homes have been cleaned and readied for repairs and redecorating. Schools were opened again one week after, and the whole place seems to be coming back to life once more.

OUR OWN STATUS

At least ten member families of the Maple Street Church of God were washed out, as well as many nonmember families from the congregation. These families have lost about a hundred thousand dollars in properties and personal effects. This is a disastrous situation for the future of the work here. We had just installed a new piano in the church, and laid our church carpets one week before. Since we have been here we have added a number of improvements to the parsonage and church, but it seems that it is all to do over now.

The engineer from the water company here estimated that we had fifty-five tons of mud left in

the church, and we pumped into the church 333,000 gallons of water to get the mud to flow out the pump lines. The church and parsonage have suffered tremendous losses in this flood. An Army engineer completed his estimate today and he said that our church and parsonage properties have incurred damages in the amount of \$14,500. We have a considerable indebtedness yet, and with many of our congregation having suffered seriously also, we may have a hard pull before us to come back. However, though we have reason to be despondent, we shall not despair. We shall look for a bigger and better work here because of His ability.

HARD ROAD AHEAD

Even before the flood I had often admired the great community spirit that the people of Hazard have. Civic and religious groups have long been on the move here working toward a bigger and better Hazard. When the flood came, the city of Hazard was just completing a number of projects in the town that were real face-lifters. Some of these efforts went with the flood and one would think the people would feel like giving up.

The citizens here are displaying great courage in connection with their homes, businesses, and city program. Of course the flood is discussed, but you seldom hear a discouraging word from the people.

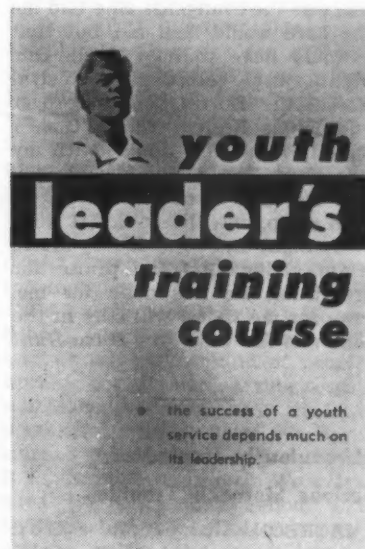
We are all far from being free from the overwhelming problems, and we have no immediate date in view when we will overcome them. The cleaned streets and bright lights that have come on again give one the feeling that everything is normal. You need only to step inside the homes or business places to see the grimness and realize the long, hard road ahead for the people.

There has been a gracious spirit manifested by the people here for the assistance given to them during this disaster. They are a great people themselves and I believe they will strive tirelessly to reach the top again with their own efforts.

Just What You've Been Looking For!

A book especially prepared for local church youth officials, youth leaders, youth program committees, and for those who are interested in working with youth.

The book includes a brief history of the Church of God Y.P.E. and also the Y.P.E. Constitution. Other chapters deal with youth leadership, the local church youth program, and youth program preparation. This book has been prepared with the needs of the local youth worker in mind.



CHURCH OF GOD PUBLISHING HOUSE, 922 Montgomery Avenue, Cleveland, Tennessee

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Lady in Need of Operation Is Healed During Revival

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — I would like to send you my testimony of my healing. I was in the hospital last June, and the doctor said I would have to have an operation. I prayed that night and asked that God's will be done. The next morning the doctor asked me what had happened, and I said I did not know. He said that I did not need an operation now, so I was sent home. After I went home I went to work in the field, and my side got worse. They were having a revival at the Church of God at Coolidge, Georgia, where Brother Eugene Norman is the pastor. I attended the services every night. Sister Scott from Moultrie, Georgia, was the evangelist. She told me the Lord would heal me, but that I would have to have faith. One night just before the revival closed, the Holy Ghost took over and I was healed. Thank God, I have not had any trouble with my side since. The doctor had already told me that I could not work or even stoop, but, thank God, I work every night and enjoy it very much. I am giving God the praise for everything He has done for me. Pray for me that I will stay in the center of His will. —*Erma Hunt*

Miraculously Healed of Serious Stomach Trouble

JACKSON, Miss.—I praise God for His wonderful healing power. I have been healed many times by the power of God, but I believe the most precious to me was last October. I had been suffering for five or six months with a stomach trouble. I could not eat any food except baby food. I could not drink milk. The doctor was treating me all the time but not doing any good. I had X rays made and they found ulcers of the stomach. They told me nothing but an operation would help me, and at my age it would be a serious operation. I had prayed and been prayed for many times, but it seemed to me to no avail. I had

given up hope of getting well and was preparing to go to a hospital. I did not care what they did. I knew I was ready to go if God wanted me. I had talked with a person on October 11 to make preparations to go to the hospital the next day, but I thank God that He was making other preparations.

That night of October 11, three of the ladies of the Church of God here in Jackson at 1900 Barly Avenue had met to pray, and God spoke to one of them to come over and pray for me. They obeyed God and they prayed for me. I didn't feel very much like praying, but I did anyway. The others seemed to get a good blessing to begin with. One of the ladies came over to where I was kneeling and touched my stomach. All at once I felt a wave of strength go from my feet to my head. I knew God had healed me; praise His name, He healed me instantly. I threw all my medicine in the garbage can, and began eating. I praise God for His healing power. I am so thankful that God is still in the healing business. If we can just hold on to God, He surely will keep His promise. He said if we kept His commandments we could ask anything in His name and He would do it. Pray for me that I may do more for God's kingdom.

—*Mrs. Rosa Bufkin*

Delivered From Evil Torment

MONTICELLO, Fla.—I praise the Lord for His love and goodness to me. I praise Him for the many times He has healed my body, and my children's bodies. Most of all I thank and praise Him for saving

my soul and for keeping me all these years. He said He would never leave us or forsake us. I have really been reminded of this passage of Scripture these past few weeks. I have been tormented by the devil for the past three and one-half years. I didn't realize that this was the devil tormenting me. If I had known, I wouldn't have suffered so long. I cannot explain this fully, because I would have to write a long letter, but I'll just say something happened that grieved me deeply. I prayed earnestly about it but I just could not keep it off my mind. I did not want to do anything displeasing to God and I talked to several different people in the Church about it. But nothing I did seemed to do a bit of good. Nobody would say anything much, but always I'd get the idea that they thought I had the wrong spirit. So I'd go home and pray some more, and ask God to fix it. I prayed earnestly but I just could not get victory. Always that old bitter ache was in my heart and sometimes it seemed that I just could not stand it.

I got to the place where I did not even want to go to church very often. Sometimes I really wanted to go, but usually I didn't want to go. I knew it was wrong for me to be this way, but I seemed powerless to help myself. I still loved the Lord and I loved His holy ways, but I was so weak, both physically and spiritually, that it did not seem to matter if I lived or died. I felt that I did not have much longer to live, but it did not matter much. I would think about my children and I did not want to die and leave them. I would remember that Scripture about Hezekiah, and I knew God was able to heal my body and spare



healing

my life, so that I could raise my children. However, I was so miserable and unhappy that I felt I was not a bit of good. I would say, "Lord, it's up to you; please use me in some way to bring my family to you. You know what's best; I don't." I wanted my family to be saved. As for my life it did not matter at all; just that my family found the Lord was all that mattered to me.

I went to the doctor in February, 1957. He told me I needed an operation and urged me to go right on to the hospital as soon as arrangements could be made. He made an appointment for me to see another doctor. Between these two dates, however, on February 4, a revival started at the Church of God in Monticello, with Sister Addie Owens as the evangelist. My pastor, Brother Rafor Lewis, and his wife were faithful to take me to church. Several times I requested prayer for my body because I was suffering from an awful cold at this time. Each time I was prayed for the Lord did wonderfully bless. Praise His holy name.

When it was time for me to go to the doctor on February 12, I went, but he said I did not need an operation. He seemed to think there was nothing much wrong with me. But praise the name of the Lord, I know there had been a lot wrong, not just physically, but in other ways, too. What I did not know was that it was the devil that kept bringing up that old grief and heartache, holding it up before me to tell nobody how I felt. He would say, "Oh, they won't understand; they'll just think you've got the wrong spirit."

I had no intention of saying a word; I just kept praying and asking God to work it out. However, Sunday night on February 24, I was at church; the Holy Ghost moved and I did not feel a thing. The evangelist said if there was anybody there that did not feel the power of God, she felt sorry for that person. Well, I just did not feel a thing, and in a few minutes church was dismissed. But nobody went home. Some of the young people were around the piano singing and the older people were sitting

around talking. I broke down and told three of the sisters how I was suffering. I believe at least one of them understood that it was the devil that was doing this to me, because she said, "Let's pray for Sister Shiver," and she began to tell me what to do when this thing came before me. I believe several people must have been sending up some earnest prayers for me. I had told my pastor's wife on Sunday evening, and she was one of three to whom I talked.

The next morning I was washing dishes and praying. A voice spoke to me and said, "That's the devil tormenting you." It was so real I could just see the devil fleeing, and I was so happy and free. I felt so light, almost as if I could fly. I wanted to tell everybody how I felt and especially the sisters I had been talking to the night before. I knew they were praying for me. Dear brothers and sisters, let us not forget to pray for one another and if something is worrying you and you cannot seem to get victory over it, talk it over with somebody else that is strong enough in the Lord to help you to pray. It really helps, praise the Lord. He is so good to us. I just wish everybody could know His love and goodness. May God bless you is my earnest prayer.

—Mrs. Verdine Shiver

— — —

Possible Cancer Disappears

WALLINS CREEK, Ky.—I had a knot on my chest which I believe was cancer. I was prayed for at the Church of God at Wallins Creek. I was healed and the knot is gone now. I praise the Lord for all His goodness to me.

—Sister Slusher

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Praises God for Many Blessings

SPARTA, Tenn.—I truly praise the Lord for what He means to me. I love the Lord more than I can ever tell. He saved my soul when I was in sin and did not know which way to go. He filled me with the

blessed Holy Ghost, and I can never tell what the Lord has done for me. He has healed my body so many times. I praise Him for the many blessings He has given me since I have been in the great Church of God. I do not see anything in this world to which to turn back. I was saved in the Baptist church about 20 years ago and I lived the best I knew how, but I kept praying and trusting the Lord for more of His blessings. I saw that there was something lacking in my soul, and asked the Lord to show me what it was.

Later, a revival started close to me and I was there one night and saw how the Lord was blessing. I never will forget that night he was preaching on the Holy Ghost and I saw that it was blessing so many. I fell on my knees and cried out to the Lord, "Lord, if this wonderful blessing is for me, I want it." Oh, how wonderful it was when He sanctified me and later baptized me with the sweet Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in other tongues. It makes me want to press on, for it will not be long until we get to the other side and hear His sweet voice say, "Well done." Won't that be a wonderful day?

We have a wonderful Sunday School and church at Black Oak and we are just a band of people working for the Lord, trying to get souls saved. We have one of the best preachers with us here; we have learned to love Brother and Sister B. O. Cantrell very much. We averaged 100 in Sunday School all through the month of February, and we praise the Lord for it. Many souls have been blessed. We thank the Lord for the wonderful revival we are now having. Brother Chester West is the evangelist and is doing some wonderful preaching. One soul came back to the Lord and others have been blessed by his preaching. Brother West is a young man trying to do his best to see souls saved and is doing a good work for the Lord.

Please pray for me that I will always do His blessed will until He calls for me. May God bless everyone is my humble prayer.

—Mrs. Lola Jones



reports

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL RECORD SET ON HOME-COMING DAY



LAUREL, Miss.—The Laurel Church of God recently celebrated its annual home-coming. We were happy to have Brother Cecil B. Knight, a former pastor, as guest speaker. Also present was our state overseer and wife, Brother and Sister H. T. Statum, who added to the success of the day. The Sunday School attendance excelled all records of recent years. Pictured from left to right: Cecil Knight, Assistant National Sunday School and Youth Director; H. T. Statum, Overseer; Elino Burke, Assistant Sunday School Superintendent; W. H. Godwin, pastor; O. W. Dupree, Sunday School Superintendent; W. B. Conn, Assistant Sunday School Superintendent; J. H. Morgan, church clerk.

New Church in Montana Is Result of Patient Labor

HARLOWTON, Montana — After months of arduous pioneering for Christ and the Church, Sister Jennie Evans has finally realized the rewarding of her efforts in Miles City, Montana, with the organizing of the Church of God with nine adult members. This is a nice little city with a population of ten thousand, with a very small percentage church-minded. The first meetings were held in an Eagles Lodge Hall. Later a store building with living quarters attached was rented. After a thorough renovating and re-

modeling by the evangelist and helpers, a number of theater seats were purchased and installed, and services were commenced. A piano was donated and a couple of the brethren very graciously consented to build an altar and pulpit which added much to making the interior more church-like. The radio program, which Sister Evans felt led to begin, gave us good publicity and some attended because of it. The church group, though not large, has a vision of great success. A number have been saved, sanctified, baptized and healed during these meetings. Y.P.E. and Sunday School were organized some time

back. The Sunday School attendance for the past 2 weeks has averaged 43. Your prayers are covered.

—Arnold E. Erickson
Overseer of Montana

Pioneer Preacher Speaks at Church Home-Coming

HERBERT, La.—The Woolen Church of God had their home-coming on January 13. We had the wonderful privilege of having in attendance eight ministers on the district, and members from several surrounding churches. Our district pastor, Brother Floyd Ramsey, brought Brother James Brinley of Florida who is evangelizing in the state. In the morning service Brother Tom McCartney, one of oldest pioneer preachers, gave a powerful sermon on what a mighty God we serve. Brother Morgan from Archibald, gave a very inspiring message in the afternoon. Other ministers who attended our service were: Brother Edward Blow, pastor of Grayson, Brother John Williams, pastor of the Rayville church, and a new exhorter, Brother Sam Simmons from Grayson. Our pastor is Brother Vic Stamper. We appreciate Brother Stamper and his family and the efforts he is putting forth in building a new church. We expect to have a new building soon. At the noon hour, the L.W.W.B. served a delicious lunch. We enjoyed the choir singing, accompanied by Jacob Strickland, pianist, who is a student at our college in Monroe. He is our Y.P.E. president.

—Cora Bell (Joiner) Frost,
reporter

Life though short, is a working day. Activity may lead to evil; but inactivity cannot be led to good! —Hannah Moore.

Under the storm and the cloud today, and today the hard peril and pain—tomorrow the stone shall be rolled away, for the sunshine shall follow the rain.—Joaquin Miller.



LET'S OBSERVE

National Family Week

MAY 5-12, 1957

**Suggestions to the local church for observing
Family Week**

A. CHURCH

1. Choose the family of the year
2. Families visit prospect families as families
3. Families bring other families and sit together
4. Family altar demonstrations in church by one family
5. Family fellowship hour in church during the week
6. Series of messages on "The Place of the Bible in the Christian Home," "The Value of a Family Altar," follow with invitation to make decision to establish a family altar or personal devotional time
7. Baby dedication on the first Sunday
8. Receive families into membership the second Sunday
9. Heads of families act as ushers
10. Award to largest complete family present
11. Provide a souvenir packet for every family—Suggest it contain: family altar guide, stewardship literature, S.S. tract, courtship tracts, baby tracts, etc.
12. Exhibit on family devotional material

B. SUNDAY SCHOOL

1. Parent-teacher's night
2. Revitalize the Cradle Roll Program
3. Opening worship conducted by one family in each department
4. Special music by a family
5. Invite judge from Family Court or juvenile court, school superintendent, or teacher, sheriff, police officer, etc., to speak on "The Families' Influence on Youth" in class or department.

C. YOUTH

1. Panel discussion on marriage and the home by parents and young people
2. Panel discussion on teen-agers and their parents

D. FAMILY

1. Attend all the services as a family
2. Establish a family altar
3. Discuss together in the home as a family "How to Improve Our Family Life Together"
4. Discuss together in the home "Our Family Relationship and Responsibility to the Church."
5. Plan a special night together at home

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NATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
542 South Dearborn Street, Chicago 5, Illinois

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_____ Church Bulletins for National Family Week, \$1.25 per 100. The front and back of this brochure shows the church bulletins that are available for you to use this year in emphasizing National Family Week in your church.

_____ Postcards—Present Christ in the Home 25c per doz., \$1.50 per 100 Identical to front of bulletin

_____ Posters—Approximate size 14 x 22, same as bulletin front, 1 free with each order, extra copies, 20c each.

_____ Pamphlets—Why Do Our Children Miss the Way?

5c each, 55c a dozen, \$4.00 per 100

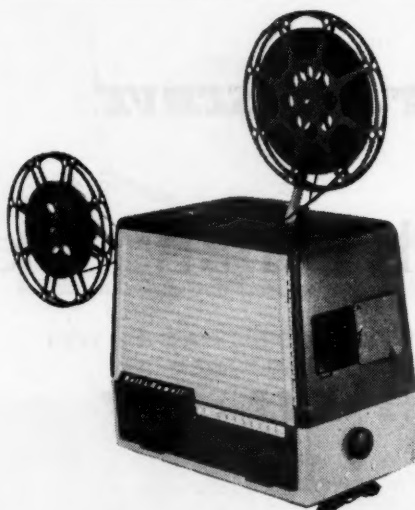
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